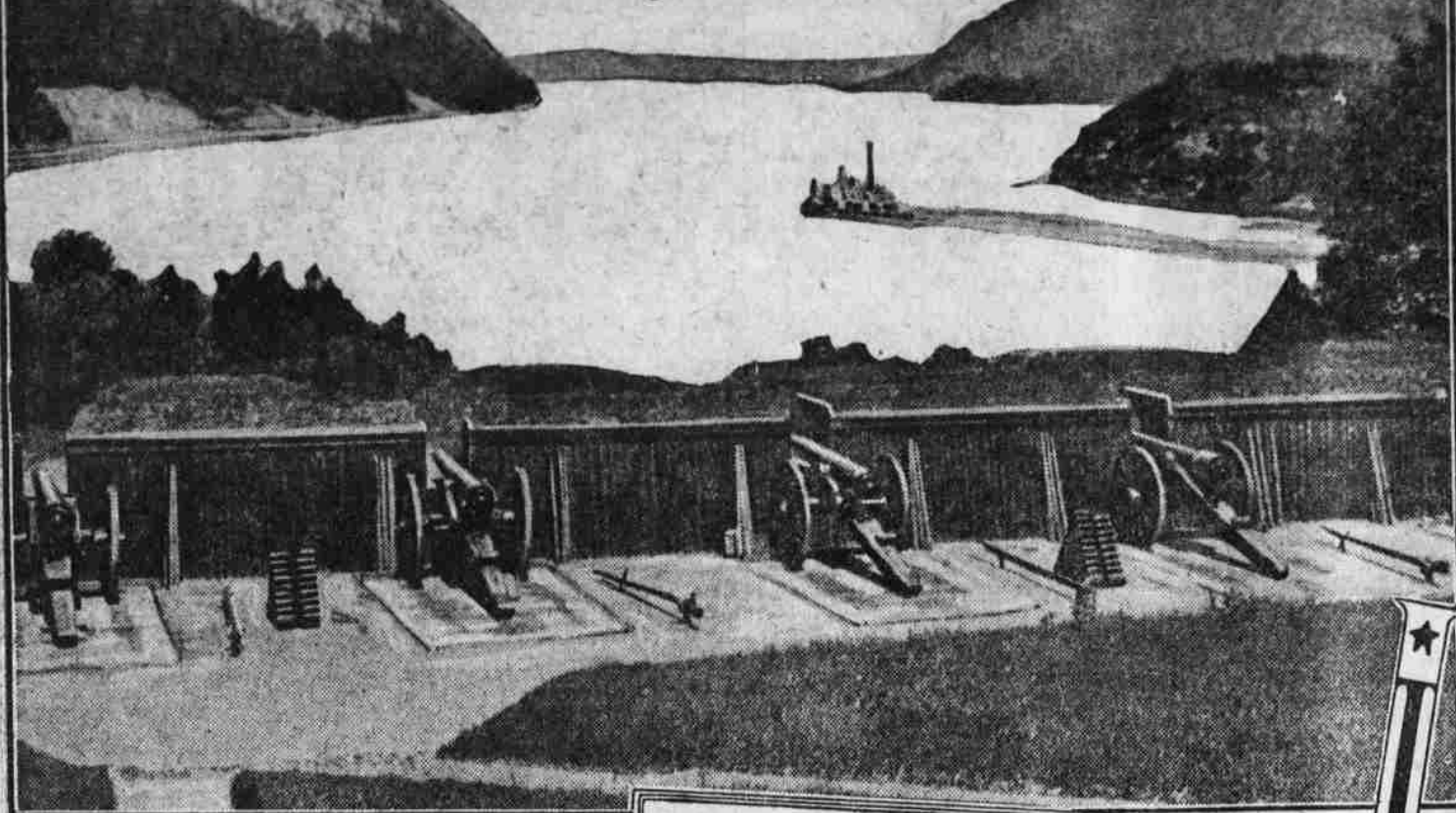


Why West Point Cadets Sing "Benny Havens, Oh!"



LOOKING UP THE RIVER FROM WEST POINT.

The famous old ballad has been sung for nearly a century by the cadets of the United States Military Academy. Its history makes good reading.

WE'll never fail to drink to her and Benny Havens, Oh!

WHO was Benny Havens? Ask the next West Pointer you meet to tell you something about Benny Havens. He knows and you'll find that his eyes will kindle at the mention of the name, says the New York Sun.

West Pointers for half a century have told the story of Benny Havens—they have bled and died with it on their lips. Wherever duty called they went, their steps were never slow—

With Alma Mater on their lips, and "Benny Havens, Oh!"

"Benny Havens, Oh!" is the epic of West Point. It is a story in song, the story of West Pointers and their sacrifices for duty, honor, West Point and country.

This old academy of West Point, laid out on a rugged shelf overlooking the majestic sweep of the Hudson, has many prized traditions, unsullied, inalienable, but none more sacred to her sons than that of Benny Havens. Go to Callum Memorial hall at West Point and read in imperishable letters of bronze the story of her sons. She has seen them march out of her saltpores singing "Benny Havens, Oh!" and seen them brought back while minute guns were echoing among the granite hills that surround her. The history of West Point is closely interwoven with that of our country; West Pointers have written bright pages in the annals of the land.

Their blood has watered Western plains and Northern winds of snow. Has stained Sierra's highest peaks, where piercing winds e'er blow; Has dyed deep red the Everglades, and deeper still, you know, The sacred Montezuma shades and walls of Mexico.

Wherever duty has summoned them West Pointers have carried "Benny Havens, Oh!"

The story of Benny Havens is almost as old as that of the academy itself. Many, many years ago, in 1824 to be precise, Benny Havens took up his residence on the southern border of what then constituted the post of West Point. Almost immediately he and the cadets became friends.

He was a genial soul, generous, and of good company and an infatigable spinner of yarns, and he invariably piled his visitors with buckwheat cakes and maple syrup. Soon his refreshments acquired such fame that cadets often slipped away from their duties and made their way to Benny's retreat, where they found oblivion for their disciplinary woes. Almost every night after taps saw half a dozen daring cadets, who should have been in bed, gathered around Benny's bountiful table.

Only for a short time did Benny's fare confine itself to buckwheat cakes and maple syrup. Grog and wine were added to the menu, an addition whereby Benny's popularity increased tenfold. About this time the West Point authorities, who had previously shut their eyes to Benny's licentiousness, decided that the time had come to declare a blockade on Benny in so far as cadets were concerned, and consequently Benny's haven of delight became "off limits" for the future. General and punishment was meted out by those caught running the blockade. Jefferson Davis, afterward president of the Confederate states, had the distinction of being among the first batch of cadets court-martialed for midnight revels at Benny Havens.

Benny was warned that his generosity to cadets was demoralizing to discipline and that unless he called a halt summary proceedings would result. He was unable to refuse those few cadets who "ran it out" to his home and finally he was expelled from the post shortly after 1829, taking up his abode at the base of a high cliff near the river's edge about a mile below West Point. Here he lived in a small frame house until his death in 1877 at the age of ninety. He was buried in Union cemetery, about midway between Highland Falls and Fort Montgomery on the West Point road.

Many men who rose to fame after leaving West

Point—Grant, Fitzhugh Lee, Sherman, Custer and others—spent happy hours in Benny's retreat.

In 1838 Lieut. Lucius O'Brien of the Eighth United States Infantry paid a visit to Cadet Ripley A. Arnold, who was then a first classman.

Arnold introduced O'Brien to Benny Havens, a warm friendship at once springing up between the two. In the academy at this time were John Thomas Metcalfe, who after graduation studied medicine and became one of the foremost surgeons in the country, and Irvin McDowell, who commanded the Union forces at the first battle of Bull Run. Both Metcalfe and McDowell were great friends of Benny.

Benny Havens, Lieutenant O'Brien, Metcalfe and Arnold together composed the original five verses of the song "Benny Havens, Oh!" and set it to the tune of "The Wearing of the Green." An obituary notice of Doctor Metcalfe says: "He had an early taste for versifying, and with still at the guitar and a good tenor voice, composed many a ditty to pass away the idle time. It was thus that he wrote the celebrated song 'Benny Havens, Oh!'"

It is not what would be called good poetry. Some of it is crude. Today there are about 50 verses, almost all of which were composed before Benny's death in 1877. Class after class added a verse. In the waiting years of Benny's life almost every night the cadets sang them through, crowding round Benny, with glasses full, while their host led them with his fiddle and his low clear barytone. This fiddle, by the way, is still in possession of an old citizen of Highland Falls.

Come, fill your glasses, fellows, and stand up in a row, To singing sentimentally we're going for to go. In the army there's nobility, promotion's very slow. So we'll sing our reminiscences of Benny Havens, Oh!

Soon came along the Mexican war to furnish inspiration to the cadet poets. Several verses were added to the poem in commemoration of the deeds of those whose gallantry carried the American flag from Vera Cruz to the heights of Chapultepec, overlooking Montezuma's ancient capital. Two of these are:

Here's a health to General Taylor, whose rough and ready blow Struck terror to the rancheros of braggart Mexico. May his country ne'er forget his deeds and ne'er forget to show She holds him worthy of a place at Benny Havens, Oh!

To the "veni, vidi, vici" man to Scott, the greatest hero, I'll give the goblet to him, let no one shrink to go. May life's cares on his honored head fall light as flakes of snow.

And his fair fame be ever great at Benny Havens, Oh!

The civil war saw stressful times at the Point and the cadets turned their attention to sterner things than poetry. The ranks of the corps were thinned by the loss of the Southerners, who went home to take up the cause of their respective states. Many of those from the North and South, who had been friends of Benny, fell on the field of glory—Manassas, Antietam, Gettysburg, the Wilderness and a hundred other places were stained with the blood of West Pointers.

There was little gaiety at Benny's during the stern four years, for Benny was getting old and the almost daily news of the loss of his former friends on the battlefield robbed him of his old-time lightheartedness.

Some of the verses of the poem which were written just after the war are lost. There seems to be only the following intact:

To the army's brave commanders let now our glasses bow,

After a man marries and settles down all he has to do for the rest of his life is to get up.

Sometimes a man who is called a fool accumulates money because he hasn't the wise man's vision for risks. France is looking forward to a wheat shortage. Its total available output will be about 212,830,000 bushels and the total consumption, owing in part to the large number of Belgians in France, will reach 312,151,800 bushels. The country will, therefore, have to import about \$180,000,000 worth of wheat.

A portable dark cabinet for photographers that has been invented consists of a stand surrounded by a hood, which is closed around the waist of a person using it.

A third hand has been provided by a German inventor for a watch to enable it to be used as a compass by the well-known method of aiming the hour hand at the sun.

What is believed to be the only mulberry forest in the world is in India, covering about 10,000 acres and being used only for fuel and timber.

We'll drink to Grant and Sherman and to the subs also. To Thomas, Meade and Sheridan (these come in approval). We'll toast them all with goblets full at Benny Havens, Oh!

Early in 1866 Gen. Winfield Scott died. For him this verse appeared:

Another star has faded, we miss its brilliant glow. For the veteran Scott has ceased to be a soldier here below. The country which he honored now feels a heart-felt woe. As we toast his name in reverence at Benny Havens, Oh!

During the last year of Benny's life came the stunning news that Custer and his men had fought their last fight. James E. Porter, Harrington and others, lieutenants and West Pointers all, perished with that gallant band. Not until Benny had died did these verses appear in memory of Custer and his command:

In silence lift your glasses; a meteor flashes out. So swift to death brave Custer; amid the battle's shout. Death called—and, crowned, he went to join the friends of long ago. To the land of Peace, where now he dwells with Benny Havens, Oh!

We'll drop a tear for Harrington and his comrades, Custer's brave. Who fell with none to see the deeds that glorified their graves. May their memory live forever with their glories present glow. They've now earned the right to dwell with Benny Havens, Oh!

Some of the other verses are fraught with the magic spirit of West Point—that spirit that is best summed up in the words, "Duty, Honor, Country, West Point," which are part of the motto of the academy.

Nowadays at West Point every cadet memorizes the first three verses of "Benny Havens, Oh!" The first has already been given; the other two are as follows:

To our kind old Alma Mater, our rock-bound Highland May we cast back many a fond regret as o'er life's sea we roam. Until on our last battlefield the lights of heaven shall glow. We'll never fail to drink to her and Benny Havens, Oh!

May the army be augmented, promotion be less slow. May our country in the hour of need be ready for the foe. May we find a soldier's resting place beneath a soldier's blow. With room enough beside our graves for Benny Havens, Oh!

Wherever duty has led them West Pointers have sung "Benny Havens, Oh!" Since Benny's death these verses have appeared in commemoration of the deeds of West Pointers in all parts of this country:

Their blood has watered Western plains and Northern winds of snow. Has stained Sierra's highest peaks, where piercing winds e'er blow; Has dyed deep red the Everglades, and deeper still, you know, The sacred Montezuma shades and walls of Mexico. From Nevada's hoary ridges, from stormy coast of Maine. From lava beds and Yellowstone—the story never waned; Wherever duty called they went—their steps were never slow— With Alma Mater on their lips and "Benny Havens, Oh!"

It is the old, old story of West Point and they who know it well love best to tell it. It will never die; it is as firmly fixed in the highlands of the Hudson as the academy itself.

THE EUROPEAN WAR A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

August 21, 1915.

Germans advanced on Osovetz.

Russian fleet defeated German fleet in Gulf of Riga.

British submarine F-13, aground on Danish island, shelled by German torpedo boat.

Great Britain and France declared cotton absolute contraband.

Venezuela accepted Greek premiership.

August 22, 1915.

Severe artillery fighting in Aras region.

Italians gained ground in the Carso front.

Two French torpedo boats sank German destroyer off Ostend.

Russians retired from the Niemen and Bobr line.

August 23, 1915.

Osovetz captured by the Germans.

Italians evacuated heights of Monfalcone.

Austrians repulsed Italians east of Polazzo.

British fleet of 30 vessels shelled Zeebrugge.

August 24, 1915.

Germans crossed the Narew river.

Germans planned to invade Serbia via Bulgaria.

Austrians attacks checked by Italians.

August 25, 1915.

Allies on Gallipoli peninsula advanced on 12-mile front.

German cruisers bombarded signal stations near Riga.

Austrian aeroplane bombarded Brescia.

Sixty-two French aviators attacked Dillingen, Rhenish Prussia.

Sixty allied aeroplanes shelled Mont Huert forest in Belgium.

August 26, 1915.

Brest-Litovsk captured by Austro-Germans.

Germans took Bialystok.

Reims again shelled by the Germans.

British aviator Bigsworth sank German submarine with a bomb.

August 27, 1915.

German advance northeast of Brest-Litovsk drove Russians nearly to Kobryn.

Austro-Germans broke through the Zlota Lipa line in Galicia.

Italians developed great movement against Trent and Trieste.

THE WORLD OVER

Success has followed planting on the sandhills of Nebraska. Jackpines planted there by the government forest service ten years ago now have a height of 15 feet and a diameter of four inches.

To protect a Swiss railroad from frequent avalanches numerous snow retaining walls have been built on a mountain side at points from which the slides start, to hold the snow until it melts.

An electric heater to be placed in a bathtub after it has been filled to raise the temperature of the water to any desired degree has been patented by an Ohio inventor.

A spark plug with two gaps, producing two sparks at once, is finding favor in England, the idea being that one gap is sure to work even if the other becomes clogged by soot.

By a series of interesting experiments with chickens, beginning before they are hatched, a Paris scientist has demonstrated that lucifer is not necessary to the life of vertebrates.

Willis A. Calkins of Abington, a large chicken raiser, hired an expert to come from Boston to pick chickens. The man arrived about 10:30 in the morning, stopped to eat dinner, and at five o'clock had 100 birds picked.

The efforts being made to educate the public to the necessity of care in the matter of fire prevention are bearing fruit as shown by recently compiled figures. Fire losses in 1915 decreased \$52,755,000, as compared with the 1914 record for the United States and Canada. The total losses by fire last year were only \$182,836,000, as compared with \$235,591,000 the previous year.

Dr. N. P. Crooks, a ship surgeon employed by the Pacific-Japan Steamship company, has crossed the Pacific ocean 123 times, covering in that time more than 1,000,000 miles.

The telegraph and telephone systems of the United States and Canada require about 4,000,000 poles a year for renewals along old lines and the erecting of new ones.

Commercial houses are urged by the government to save their old correspondence as material for the paper mills. One large house that formerly burned about 500 tons of old letters each year is now selling them.

Owing to the war women are taking an ever broadening part in operating the railways of France.

A stand to hold ice-cream cones erect, made of stiff paper, is the invention of a New York man.

Helicopters for aviators have been invented with wireless receiving telephones built into the ear flaps.

The production and distribution of electricity in Edinburgh has been made a municipal monopoly.

Paper dust exploded with fatal results when workmen carried lighted lanterns into a room filled with it in a paper-tube factory in France.

HAPPENINGS of the week IN MISSOURI

The birds in the poultry plant at California are real high fliers. They have one convenience that no monarch could have enjoyed fifty years ago. That convenience is electric fans. Electric fans and running water have been installed in the large feeding station of the A. B. Cole & Sons' plant there. Under the spray of a fountain in the feeding station is the favorite haunt of the ducks and geese. The management has found the fans and water of economic value, as it saves the lives of many fowls and makes them fatten faster in the hot weather.

Five minutes after he had been elected chairman of the Republican congressional committee of the Fourth district in session at St. Joseph, William H. Kueker of St. Joseph was notified that his brother-in-law, Boone Smith, had been run down and killed by a passenger train near Agency.

Prof. Frank Lee Martin of the school of journalism and his family have returned from Tokyo, Japan, where Professor Martin has been on a year's leave of absence. While in Japan Mr. Martin was on the editorial staff of the Japan Advertiser, an American newspaper published in Tokyo. Professor Martin left here May 10, 1915.

Al McDonald, engineer of freight train No. 74, on the Burlington, was killed recently when the engine and ten cars slid off a dump near Monroe City. Eugene McKiddy, the forward brakeman, was buried under the engine. The fireman escaped.

Five hundred families were made homeless at Hannibal recently and hundreds of acres of land flooded by a sudden rise in Deer creek which flows throughout the heart of the city. The flood was due to a four-inch rain.

The body of Don Kelly, 8 years old, son of a miner, was found at the bottom of a shaft 175 feet deep at Carterville. He had been missing for several days and officials have been unable to learn how he happened to be in the shaft. He left home to hunt rabbits in a nearby wood, taking two dogs with him. Later the dogs were discovered alive in another shaft. Two boys, who have admitted to the authorities that they threw the dogs in the shaft, are being held for investigation.

A 7.3-inch rain fell at Monroe City the other night. This is the heaviest rain remembered by citizens there. Several houses and stores were flooded and much damage done.

The second annual reunion of the Webb family was held at Webb's Park, a half mile west of Oak Grove, recently. Several hundred people attended. Those present were descendants of Thomas and Margaret Webb, who came from Tennessee in 1836 and settled upon a 1,300-acre farm near Oak Grove. The two-story log house where they reared their thirteen children still stands.

Lillian Glenn, 6 years old, was killed near Sedalia as she sat near her half brother, Roy Richards, 16, and watched him load a shotgun preparatory to going squirrel hunting. The parents of the girl, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Richards, farmers living north of there, were shopping at the time.

T. J. Means, a banker of Dearborn, is in a critical condition at his home as a result of being kicked by a colt. He is 76 years old.

Albert D. Norton has resigned as judge of the St. Louis Court of Appeals to accept a place on the National Democratic campaign committee. Judge Norton was a Progressive and four years ago was the Progressive candidate for governor of Missouri. Judge Norton, over long distance telephone, let it be known that he has resigned from the bench to better devote himself to the responsibilities of the campaign. He plans to practice law after the election, either in St. Louis or Kansas City.

The safe in the office of the Bagley Milling Company at Odessa was blown open the other morning, but the robbers got only a small amount of money.

George Clark, a coal miner, 35, married, was fatally injured at Bevier when caught under a fall of rock. He died in an ambulance.

Thomas Hall, the 16-year-old son of George Hall, a farmer, was killed the other night when his buggy was struck by a Chicago & Alton freight train at a crossing near Blue Springs.

The price of zinc ore slumped \$5 more on the Joplin market, making the offering for high grades \$65. The range is down to \$45. As a result of the steady decline, many of the mine operators are planning to close down their plants.

The Missouri River is washing away a large area of rich farm land near its junction with the Mississippi River, fifteen miles north of St. Louis. Eddies near the mouth of the Missouri are moving against both shores and carrying away the soil.

A \$2,000 automobile belonging to State Senator Wallace Crossley, Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor, was stolen from the garage at the Crossley home the other night. No trace of the car or the thieves has been obtained. Senator Crossley is in St. Louis.

Comer McCormick, principal of the Summerville High school, was drowned recently in the Piney river while on an outing with his father, Robert McCormick, of St. Louis. His home was in Licking, Texas county.

The more a woman has in her head, the less she thinks about what is on it.

WOMAN'S CROWNING GLORY is her hair. If yours is streaked with grey, grizzled, gray hairs, use "La Creole" Hair Dressing and change it in the natural way. Price \$1.00—Adv.

Bees are the only insects that have any use for any kind of combs.

OLD PRESCRIPTION FOR WEAK KIDNEYS

A medicinal preparation like Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, that has real curative value almost sells itself. Like an endless chain system the remedy is recommended by those who have been benefited to those who are in need of it.

Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root is a physician's prescription. It has been tested for years and has brought results to countless numbers who have suffered.

The success of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root is due to the fact that it builds almost every-thing in overcoming kidney, liver and bladder diseases, corrects urinary troubles and neutralizes the uric acid which causes rheumatism.

Do not suffer. Get a bottle of Swamp-Root from any druggist now. Start treatment today.

However, if you wish first to test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper—Adv.

Suspicion Confirmed.

A worthy vicar in an English rural parish who preached one Sunday in the interest of foreign missions was surprised on entering the village shop during the week to be greeted with marked coldness by the old dame who kept it.

He asked the cause, and the good woman, producing a half-crown from a drawer, and throwing it down before him, said:

"I marked that coin and put it in the plate last Sunday, and here it is back in my shop. I knowed well them poor Africans never got the money."

What Impressed Her.

Shortly after Will Crooks, the labor leader, was elected to parliament, says an English weekly, he took his little daughter to Westminster. She was evidently awed at the splendors around her, and maintained a profound and wondering silence all the time. Mr. Crooks was much impressed.

"Well," said he to her at last, "what are you thinking so deeply about, dear?"

"I was thinking daddy," answered the little girl, "that you're a big man in our kitchen, but you aren't very much here."

Very Eccentric.

"What kind of a man is an eccentric man?"

"An eccentric man, my boy, is a man who insists on living his life his own way."

Everybody needs it—stored for emergency in a well-developed, well-preserved, well-nourished body and brain.

Grape-Nuts food stands preeminent as a builder of this kind of energy. It is made of the entire nutriment of whole wheat and barley, two of the richest sources of food strength.

Grape-Nuts also includes the vital mineral elements of the grain, so much emphasized in these days of investigation of real food values.

Crisp, ready to eat, easy to digest, wonderfully nourishing and delicious.

"There's a Reason" for Grape-Nuts

CONDENSATIONS

The bottling trade of the British Isles requires 70,000 tons of corn annually.

Spanish lovers present their fiancées with fans on which they have written the most impassioned poetry, embroidered garters with love mottoes woven in silk, and innumerable boxes of sweets. Engagement rings are not given, the bride-elect receiving instead a gold medal, which she wears suspended from a chain round her neck.

BRIEF INFORMATION

Tests of the air in crowded sleeping quarters on modern warships have shown it purer than the atmosphere of barnyards or average residences on shore.

Albinos cannot see well in the sunlight. It is only in semidarkness that they can discern objects clearly.

Kerosene or other oil lamps should only be filled during the day. There may be a serious explosion if this is done near a light or fire.